



**Southern Regional Office (SRO)  
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701**

**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Broadway-Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site  
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 38<sup>th</sup> meeting**

May 9, 2007, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Eastside City Hall, Room A  
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson, Arizona

E-5460.14.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Cheri Bludau, Judy Burns, Dolores Fife, James Garrett, Janet Marcus, Aubrey McMullen, Wanda Ryckman, Jean Sabo, Michael Smith

CAB Members Absent: Carla Casler, Jackie Olson

ADEQ Staff Present: Gretchen Wagenseller, Project Manager; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Robert LeBarron, Alison Jones, Dave Eaker, Tom Kimmel, Michele Mahal, Tom Korff, Lee Lohman, Mike Mahan

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The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Co-chair Judy Burns conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

**2. Approval of Minutes for 9/27/06 CAB Meeting**

James Garrett moved to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2006, CAB meeting. Jean Sabo seconded the motion. The CAB voted; all were in favor, none were opposed.

**3. Nomination and Election of CAB Co-Chairs**

The CAB discussed the nomination of CAB co-chairs for the next term. Wanda Ryckman motioned to re-elect Judy Burns and James Garrett as co-chairs. Janet Marcus seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The CAB voted; all were in favor, none opposed.

**4. Introduction to WQARF Remedial Selection Process and How to Comment on the Draft  
Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) Report**

Gretchen Wagenseller said the purpose of a remedial investigation is to find out where the contamination is, what the extent of the contamination is, and what risks there are to the public from the contamination. She said the City of Tucson and Pima County did a lot of work installing monitor wells in the 1990s before ADEQ took over the site in early 2000, and then ADEQ installed additional wells. She said that the draft Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) Report focuses on the groundwater plume. The investigation of the Broadway North Landfill and the Broadway South Landfill are still not completed. She said the most important finding of the draft Groundwater RI is that the main contaminant of concern is tetrachloroethene

(PCE) which defines the plume, the area where contamination in the ground is above the Aquifer Water Quality Standards. She provided a map to illustrate. She showed the area near the Broadway North Landfill where PCE has also been found. She said ADEQ needs to do more work on the vertical extent of the groundwater contamination. She said that due to budget shortfalls over the past year, installation of additional wells had to be postponed until fiscal year 2008.

Eileen Palese explained the community involvement requirements at this stage of the remediation process. She handed out a graph which illustrates the various steps. She said the purpose of the meeting is to formulate CAB comments on the draft Groundwater RI. She pointed out the hard copy of the report available for review at the meeting and offered a CD of the report. She said anyone that wishes to comment must do so in writing. She said the comment period began April 4 and will end May 29, 2007. ADEQ sent out an Executive Summary to the CAB to prepare them for this meeting. She offered comment forms from the handout table. She also announced the date of the Remedial Objectives open house and public meeting on May 23, 2007, at Eastside City Hall. She said the two comment periods were combined to allow time for comment on the draft Groundwater RI at the upcoming public meeting to solicit remedial objectives. Tonight the CAB can decide if it wishes to comment as a group. She said one of the co-chairs has been invited to be on the agenda for the public meeting.

#### **5. CAB Discussion of Draft RI/Group Comment Decision**

Judy Burns opened up a discussion with the CAB. She asked if Gretchen Wagenseller could provide any high points from the Executive Summary. Gretchen Wagenseller provided an overview of the report and said that although no one is drinking contaminated water, the city will need to use the water supply wells near the site. The CAB discussed the need to protect the future water supply. The CAB discussed their responsibility to comment. Janet Marcus motioned that the CAB does want to comment on the draft Groundwater RI report; Jean Sabo seconded the motion. The CAB voted. All were in favor; none opposed.

#### **6. Call to the Public – to offer input to the CAB on the Draft RI**

Members of the public had an opportunity to comment or ask questions. Mike Mahan said he has applied to become a member of the CAB. He asked about the Broadway-Pantano WQARF site investigation. Gretchen Wagenseller provided answers to his questions about the sampling data and the operation of the extraction wells. She said that the top concern is public health, and that ADEQ will look at several possible ways to remediate the site. She explained that the budget changes yearly for the site, but funding is expected to be allocated for the future through the WQARF program.

Alison Jones, Hydrogeology Manager, City of Tucson, said that the Environmental Services Department and Tucson Water will comment together on the draft RI. She said what drives her department is keeping the water available for Tucson Water. She said the city will be at the public meeting on May 23. The city believes the draft RI is very thorough and well written.

#### **7. Formulation of CAB Comments on the Draft RI**

Michael Smith first had a question about the maps ADEQ provides to the CAB. He said he talked to Gretchen Wagenseller about how they are developed. He said it looks like the plume is smaller; that containment has been effective. Gretchen Wagenseller said that the contaminant levels have gone down.

Regarding the CAB comment on the draft Groundwater RI, Judy Burns asked if the CAB wanted to be generally supportive of the document or did the CAB want to appoint someone to go through the report. Members did not believe they had the technical expertise to do that, but did discuss possible comments, such as stating that the CAB is pleased with the progress of the investigation, the CAB supports the draft Groundwater RI, it is imperative this step leads to a final remediation, and that the CAB will continue to watch to be sure that the site is remediated. They said there is enough data now to know it needs to be

cleaned up. Alison Jones offered a suggestion that the CAB could facilitate the funds coming in. She suggested that the CAB mention the value of the central well field.

The following points were brought up in the CAB discussion:

Jean Sabo said she always knew the landfills south of Broadway were a problem. It was frustrating when nothing was done about the south landfills. The CAB discussed the issue of sustainability. There is a more serious situation with groundwater due to lack of a source. The risk is increasing with time. Clean up the site now—with more delay the situation becomes more serious and irreversible.

The CAB agreed that a lot of time was lost debating, questioning who is responsible. The CAB becomes frustrated when state money has been held back due to budget changes, and when funds are inadequate, delays result. The highest concern is the need to protect the central well field along with protecting human health. The public health risk increases the longer the site is not cleaned up.

The CAB is pleased that ADEQ was able to move forward by separating the groundwater RI from the RI for the landfills. CAB members said the comment should focus on how the groundwater contamination and WQARF site is impacting the entire community as well as those who live right in the area because of the threat to future water supply and to the central well field.

Jean Sabo asked Gretchen Wagenseller how to accelerate the clean up. She responded that one way was the decision to divide the site into the landfill operable unit and the groundwater operable unit so that ADEQ could proceed with the RI even though more work needs to be done on the landfill investigation. It would have taken at least two more years to wait for the final investigation of the Broadway North Landfill. She said it is also going to help move things along through the city's offer to do the Feasibility Study for the groundwater operable unit.

#### **8. CAB Discussion of Remedial Objectives and CAB Member Participation at the Remedial Objectives Public Meeting, May 23, 2007**

The CAB discussed similar points of views as above and decided to combine their comment letter to cover both the draft Groundwater RI and the Remedial Objectives.

The CAB assigned Jean Sabo and Janet Marcus to write the CAB comments based on the discussion at the meeting. They will send the comments to Eileen Palese who will format it and deliver it to Gretchen Wagenseller before the end of the comment period May 29, 2007.

#### **9. Site Investigation Update + Q&A**

Alison Jones reported on the questions at the last meeting about possible vapor intrusion into the YMCA building on Prudence. She pointed out the area on map. She said the city does have landfill gas probes in the area of the trash footprint at the Gollob Park area of Broadway South Landfill and the Prudence Landfill. They can measure landfill gas (methane) and soil vapor at various levels. She said the subject of vapor intrusion of volatile organic compounds is an emerging issue for regulators, but it is very complicated. She said they currently sample the ground first to see if there is a vapor problem before going into a building because other factors inside, such as smoke or chemicals which can influence results. Soil gas results are measured in parts per billion. The city measured the soil gas probes outside of the YMCA and got a result of zero for methane; they have never detected methane in the probes. She said they also collected other samples in metal canisters to obtain lab results. She said extremely low levels of various compounds were detected – less than 50 micrograms per liter – just above the detection limit near the trash. Those numbers would indicate that there should not be a problem in the buildings in the area of the old landfills. She said the city samples all of its landfills every quarter for methane, oxygen levels, and carbon dioxide. She said this time they measured for volatile organic compounds at the YMCA.

Cheri Bludau asked about the neighborhoods around the Broadway North Landfill. Gretchen Wagenseller said ADEQ did methane monitoring testing with soil probes in 2003 between the Broadway North Landfill and the neighborhood to the southwest of the landfill. Some low concentrations of various compounds were detected, but she said there were questions about what to do with the data because EPA had not yet determined what the standards should be for volatile organic compounds inside residences and still has not, to date. Alison Jones said that there is some interpretation on the data—she did not get non-detect on everything, but she got very low numbers, just above the detection limit, and that this data came from sampling locations very close to the trash. She said she would be glad to explain the data further after the meeting.

Jean Sabo asked if the methane extraction system behind YMCA is still operating. Alison Jones said no, only when testing is done. She said the old landfills are not making much gas anymore.

Gretchen Wagenseller said she found out a few days ago that a developer plans to purchase part of the Broadway North Landfill. A subsidiary of HSL Properties, HI Properties, bought the northwest part of the landfill—the least contaminated parcel. She said ultimately the goal is to develop the whole landfill site. She said the owners plan to set up a meeting through the neighborhood association to review their plans. They are not planning on removing the waste because it is too expensive. The CAB discussed the possible development of the area. ADEQ will still be able to access the property for sampling and other purposes. Gretchen Wagenseller said that budget for the WQARF programs looking good for next year. She said the new fiscal year begins July 1, 2007.

#### **10. Other Administrative Business**

CAB co-chair, Judy Burns, reported on a workshop ADEQ held for CAB co-chairs on March 7, 2007. She said she didn't learn a lot but was able to help answer questions from newly elected co-chairs. Overall she felt like it was a worthwhile effort. Eileen Palese said the Arizona Daily Star featured the CAB meeting in an article in the neighborhood section of the newspaper prior to the meeting.

Michael Smith said that he has contacted the University of Arizona Department of Hydrology, where a group of students is working on similar project. He said several people may consider joining the CAB. He encouraged them to get on the ADEQ mailing list for meeting announcements.

#### **11. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion**

The next meeting of the Broadway-Pantano CAB will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at Eastside City Hall, Room A, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, or email at palese.eileen@azdeq.gov, for meeting information and proposed agenda.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded on a digital device as a record of the proceedings. To listen to a recording, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.*